# 2020 ADVANCED DUI TRIAL ADVOCACY

August 31 – September 3, 2020 Phoenix, Arizona



Wednesday, September 2, 2020

## **Prescription Drug DUI Cases**

Presented by:

### JAY CHAPMAN

Assistant City Prosecutor
City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office

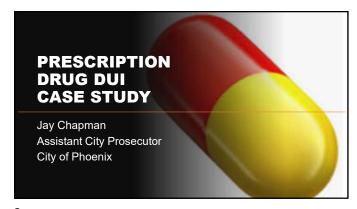
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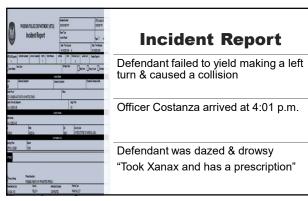
ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL 3838 N. Central Ave, Suite 850
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

ELIZABETH BURTON ORTIZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR











## **Incident Report**

Officer Costanza saw 6 of 6 cues of HGN

Defendant had back pain
No other field sobriety tests were given

Defendant was arrested Her blood was drawn

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#### **DRE Evaluation Report**

Took 1 Xanax pill at 6:30 a.m.

Evaluator opinion: CNS Depressant

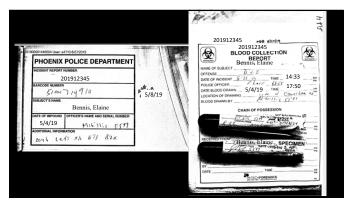
Based on your training & experience were your observations consistent with the defendant using a drug in a certain drug category?

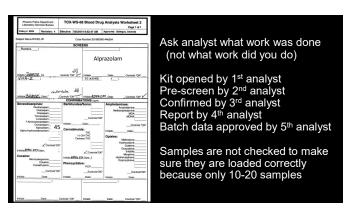


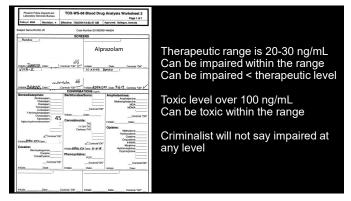


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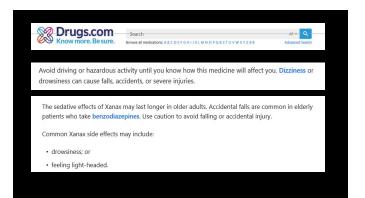
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#### PRESCRIPTION DISCLOSED

- Has a doctor been disclosed?
- How long has the defendant been filling the prescription?
- Are the prescription fill dates only after the date of violation?

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#### PRESCRIPTION DISCLOSED

Rule of Evidence 902(11):

certified record of regularly conducted activity meeting Rule 803(6)(A-C) requirements and must give notice and make available for inspection

- Rule of Evidence 803(6):

  - (A) Record made near the time by someone with knowledge
     (B) Kept in the course of a regularly conducted activity of a business
     (C) Making the record was a regular practice

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- Defendant can testify that she took a drug
- Defendant can testify what she believed she suffered from
- Preclude Defendant from testifying she had a prescription
- Preclude statements on prescription bottles
- Preclude pharmacy printouts
- Preclude prescription itself

#### **MOTION IN LIMINE**

- Preclude Defendant repeating doctor's words, diagnosis, how defendant came about the drugs, who prescribed the drugs
- Preclude Defendant from testifying she took as prescribed
- Strategically, you can dismiss the (A)(3) charge and ask for the preclusion of the prescription because is not a defense to the (A)(1) charge

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#### **CALL THE CRIMINALIST**

- Is Alprazolam defined in § 13-3401?
- What is the drug classification of Alprazolam?
- What is the brand name of Alprazolam?
- What is Xanax taken for?
- How does Xanax affect the brain & body?
- At a therapeutic level, is Xanax impacting the mind & body?

#### **CALL THE CRIMINALIST**

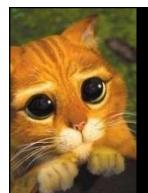
- Side effects are similar to alcohol (CND)
- Impairment of cognitive, sensory, and motor skills
- Slurred speech, drowsy, dizzy, confused, trouble concentrating, poor coordination, and poor balance
- Slower reaction time is consistent with Xanax impairment?
- Difficulty judging distance is consistent with Xanax impairment?

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#### **CALL THE CRIMINALIST**

- Expect HGN if impaired by Xanax?
- What is the therapeutic range for Xanax?
- There is no agreed upon level of impairment? Toxic level?
- Warnings associated with Xanax?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> tube of blood defense could test have tested?

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You don't win a case during jury selection but you can lose it

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#### **JURY SELECTION FUNDAMENTALS**

EAR method

- Experience: Please tell me about your experience
- Attitude: How did you feel about that?
- Rule: What are your views? What did you learn?

Listen & ask follow up questions

• Can you tell me more about that? Why is that?

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#### **JURY SELECTION FUNDAMENTALS**

- Have second set of eyes and ears
- · Ask open-ended questions to get jurors talking
- Don't cross-examine a juror unless you are going to use strike
- Some jurors don't raise their hands to any questions.
   Bring them back individually and ask if anything came to mind

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#### **WILL EMOTION SWAY THE JUROR?**

Occupation
Prior jury service
Experience with police
Facial expressions & Body languages
Pauses
Tone
How are they dressed
What book are they reading
Rule follower ("Yes sir or madam")
What does your "gut" tell you

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It is a violation of A.R.S. § 28-1381(A)(1)

to drive after taking Xanax and to be impaired by Xanax to the slightest degree.

A prescription is not a defense to the (A)(1) charge.

Would you have difficulty following the law?

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#### **JURY QUESTIONS**

It is a violation of A.R.S. § 28-1381(A)(3) to drive after taking Xanax without a valid prescription. The (A)(3) charge does not require impairment.

Would you have difficulty following the law?

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#### **JURY QUESTIONS**

Have you, a family member or close friend ever taken Xanax or an anti-depressant drug?

When did the person start taking Xanax? How recently did the person take Xanax? Does the person drive after taking Xanax?

Have you, a family member or close friend ever regularly used a prescription drug?

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- Has anyone taken a course in, or do you consider yourself knowledgeable in the field of medicine, chemistry, pharmacology or the effects of drugs on the body?
- Have you or anyone close to you ever worked where prescription drugs are sold?
- Have you or anyone close to you ever worked in a lab or any medical testing facility?
- Have you had training or work experience in any drug treatment programs?

#### **JURY QUESTIONS**

- Has anyone ever challenged a traffic ticket, for a example a speeding ticket?
- Have you, a family member or close friend had an especially positive or negative experience with police?

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#### **JURY INSTRUCTION**

Alprazolam is defined in § A.R.S. 13-3401

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It is not a defense to a charge of a violation of 28-1381(A)(1) that the defendant is or has been entitled to use the drug under the laws of this state. 28-1381(B)

(Therefore...A prescription is NOT a defense to the (A)(1) charge)

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#### **JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

- It is a defense to the A.R.S. § 28-1381(A)(3) charge that the defendant was taking the drugs as prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner. It is the defendant's burden to prove this defense by a preponderance of the evidence.
- A party having the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence must persuade you, by the evidence, that the claim or a fact is more probably true than not true. This means the evidence that favors that party outweighs the opposing

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#### **OPENING STATEMENT**

May 4, 2019

37

2:33 p.m.

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## Alprazolam (Xanax)

Central Nervous System Depressant

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### **Two Charges**

#### (A)(1)

- 1) Driving?
- Under the influence of any drug if impaired to the <u>slightest</u> degree?

Prescription is not a defense

#### (A)(3)

- 1) Driving?
- 2) Any drug defined in Section 13-3401 in defendant's body?

Defendant's burden to prove he used drug as prescribed by a preponderance of the evidence

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Firmly Convinced?

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### **Victim testimony**

- Not just a witness to prove driving but impairment & not taking drug as prescribed
- How did collision occur? Did Defendant brake?
- Did you call 911 after the collision? Why did you call? How did Defendant respond?
- What did the Defendant do after the accident? What did the Defendant say after the accident?

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## **Victim testimony**

- Did the Defendant have balance problems?
- Was the Defendant dazed?
- Was the Defendant drowsy?
- Did the Defendant have slurred speech?
- Did the Defendant try to leave?

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- · Ask about signs of impairment not mentioned in police report
- Did you observe anything that suggested the defendant was having a medical issue?
- Did the defendant say she was having a medical issue?
- Did you call out Fire?
- Were you observations of the defendant consistent with signs & symptoms of impairment of a drug?

## DIRECT EXAMINATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTIST

- Pre-trial interview is critical
- Interview again closer to trial and follow up on first interview
- On the witness stand, keep it interesting
- Minimize role or stipulate to toxicology results

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#### **DEFENSE CASE**

	DEFENSE CRIMINALIST OR DOCTOR
	Does Xanax require a prescription?
	• Xanax belongs to what drug classification?
	• What is Xanax taken for?
	Describe how Xanax affects the brain & body
49	
	DEFENSE CRIMINALIST OR DOCTOR
	<ul> <li>You don't have personal knowledge of when the Defendant took Xanax before driving on 5/4/19?</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Difficulty perceiving distance is consistent with impairment of Xanax, correct?</li> </ul>
	<ul><li>Being dazed is consistent with impairment of Xanax?</li><li>Being drowsy is consistent with impairment of Xanax?</li></ul>
	Agree 6 cues on the HGN test is consistent with a neurological dysfunction one cause of which is a central
	nervous system depressant?  • You do not know if the defendant took Xanax as prescribed, isn't that true?
50	
	DEFENSE CRIMINALIST ONLY
	You have never met the defendant before?
	You are not licensed to write prescriptions?
	You are not a doctor?
	<ul> <li>You don't know what instructions were provided to the defendant by her doctor in regards to taking Xanax?</li> </ul>

#### **CROSS OF DEFENDANT**

- Before driving on 5/4/19 you took Xanax?
- · You were involving in a car accident?
- · You were turning left & the other car had a green light, correct?
- You failed to yield, correct? You caused the collision, right?

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#### **CROSS OF DEFENDANT**

- This collision was over a year ago, correct?
- Today you claim you dropped your phone but you did not tell that to the officers over a year ago, right?
- You would agree memory fades over time?
- You would agree that having a drug in your system may affect your ability to recall specific details? It does not improve your ability?

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#### **CROSS OF DEFENDANT**

- Although you claim you have taken Xanax for years, isn't it true the Xanax you took on 5/4/19 still affected you?
- If you took Xanax for years then you don't know what it is like to not have Xanax in your system, right?
- You would agree, Xanax is not cheap?
   If Xanax had no effect on your brain or body, you wouldn't spend money on it, right?

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- Agree that Xanax slows down your central nervous system?
- Agree that this could happen without you consciously being aware of it?
- This can affect your perception?
- This could affect your reaction time?

#### **CLOSE**

#### (A)(1)

- Driving?
   Under the influence of any drug if impaired to the <u>slightest</u> degree? Prescription is not a defense

Caused a collision Dazed

Drowsy HGN

The amount of Xanax in defendant's blood was higher than the therapeutic range

#### (A)(3)

- 1) Driving?
- Any drug defined in Section 13-3401 in defendant's body? 2)

ndant's burden to prove he used drug as cribed by a preponderance of the ence

Xanax was in the defendant's blood.

Xanax was in the defendant's blood.

The pharmacy princtus do not prove the Defendant took Xanax as prescribed.

The defense scientist doesn't know when she took Xanax or how much.

If she took as prescribed, why did she look like she was falling asleep at 2:30 p.m.?

You saw how the defendant was unable to answer questions on the stand.

It is her burden to prove.

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#### **CLOSE**

- The question is not whether the Defendant is polite or a bad person. The Defendant made a poor decision. This case is about safety. You were selected as jurors because you swore you would follow the law.
- "Your verdict should not be influenced by passion against the Defendant nor by sympathy for the Defendant. It should be fair, impartial and based upon the facts of the case."

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SYMPATHY	
58	
SAFETY	
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59	
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